

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7605
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2103

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLO, LE, IS
SUBJ: REMARKS OF WALID JUNBLATT

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON APRIL 13 WALID JUNBLATT
SAID THE FOLLOWING:

2. VIRTUALLY EVERY ORGANIZATION OF THE PLO AND NATIONAL
MOVEMENT HAD AN OFFICE IN THE SHIA AREA. THE SYRIAN
SOCIALIST NATIONAL PARTY, HOWEVER, WAS THE PREDOMINANT
NATIONAL MOVEMENT ORGANIZATION AND FATAH THE PREDOMINANT
PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION. NEITHER THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT
NOR THE PALESTINIANS WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE FIGHTING
AGAINST THE CHRISTIANS IN AYN AR-RUMANNAH, ALTHOUGH SOME
MAY BE SERVING AS GUIDES FOR THE SYRIANS.

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3. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE A SOLUTION FOR AYN AR-
RUMANNAH INCIDENT. THE SYRIANS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
STATION THEMSELVES PERMANENTLY IN THE AREA TO PREVENT
NEW OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE. THE LEBANESE FRONT WANTED
AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO GO IN THERE, BUT THIS WAS NOT
GOING TO HAPPEN. THUS EVEN IF A CEASE-FIRE WERE
ESTABLISHED FOR PRESENT INCIDENT, RENEWED VIOLENCE WAS

LIKELY.

4. THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR AYN AR-RUMANNAH, AND INDEED THE ONLY THING THAT COULD PERHAPS SAVE LEBANON FROM A NEW CIVIL WAR, WAS A POLITICAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LEBANESE FRONT AND THE PALESTINIANS. WALID HAD MET APRIL 12 WITH YASIR ARAFAT AND WAS MEETING WITH HIM AGAIN ON APRIL 13. WALID HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT ARAFAT HAD NO INTEREST IN CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON AND COULD ARRIVE AT SOME SORT OF MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE LEBANESE FRONT, IF THE LATTER WERE WILLING.

5. WALID FEARED THAT THE SYRIANS WERE GOING TO WITHDRAW SOON FROM LEBANON. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS VERY LIKELY TO PLUNGE THE COUNTRY AGAIN INTO CIVIL WAR.

6. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY, THERE WERE AS YET NO SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS IN THE SHUF RESULTING FROM THE ISRAELI INVASION. THE PLO HAD OPENED A SMALL OFFICE IN ALEY AND LESS THAN 1000 PALESTINIAN REFUGEES HAD ENTERED THE LOWER SHUF, NONE HAD GONE INTO THE UPPER SHUF. "WE CAN CONTROL THEM AT PRESENT."

7. SUNNI DEPUTIES WERE LIKELY TO BOYCOTT THE APRIL 20 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION SCHEDULED TO DEBATE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON. THUS ATTEMPTING TO GO AHEAD WITH THE DEBATE WOULD SERVE ONLY TO FURTHER DIVIDE THE COUNTRY. PARKER

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